

Union ratifies new contract; Employees' STARs are monitored at portals; Y-12 volunteers build Habitat houses; Legal wins award

Y-12 Employees and Community



UNION RATIFIES CONTRACT

The Atomic Trades and Labor Council membership ratified a new contract on June 26 with a signing bonus of \$1,500 per employee. The new contract includes improved health insurance and five annual wage increases.

"I think that we have one of the better contracts, all things considered," said Bubba Scarbrough, ATLC president. The ATLC, which is affiliated with the Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO, comprises 16 international unions and 17 local unions and represents approximately 2,100 workers at Y-12 and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

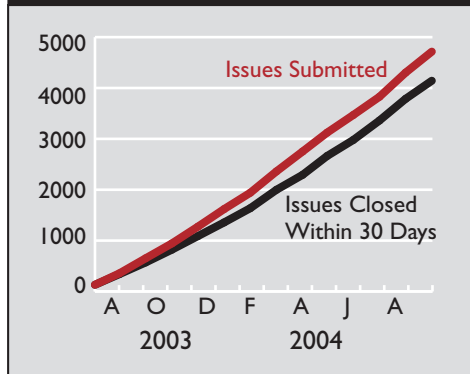
EMPLOYEES FOLLOW STARs

Some Y-12 employees see stars coming to work each day, but now all employees are watching their STARs—Site Training Access Requirements, that is. Employees are being screened for STARs completion before being granted access to Y-12 through badge-reader-controlled perimeter portals.

STARs, the minimum training requirements for all employees, include general employee training, computer security awareness, preven-

No More Surprises

Number of Employee Monthly Submissions



During September, 87% of No More Surprises submissions were closed within 30 days.

tion of workplace violence and use of portable fire extinguishers.

Linking STARs to portal access has helped reduce training deficiencies by 40%. "We're serious about meeting our training requirements," said Lorry Ruth, Y-12 Plant Training manager.

HABITAT HOMES TAKE SHAPE

More than 150 Y-12 employees volunteered to help build three Habitat for Humanity houses in Oak Ridge. Y-12's was one of three teams working collectively on all three houses. Volunteers chose work commensurate with their abilities and desires. Several first-time volunteers expressed a sense of true

accomplishment. All agreed the work was hard but extremely rewarding.

IT'S THE LAW

The Legal Division is committed to providing a fairer, safer world for Y-12 employees, our customers and the community. The Energy Employees Occu-

pational Injury Compensation Program Act of 2000, a recent and difficult-to-follow law, was passed to facilitate compensation to employees at nuclear facilities for the illnesses unique to such sites.

The paper burden of EEOICPA is enormous and has increased a hundred-fold since it was passed. Yet the Legal Division (with indispensable help from Industrial Hygiene, Medical, Plant Records, Personnel and Radiological Control) has met the challenge, from producing 4,985 pages of documentation in 2000 to providing more than 650,000 pages so far in 2004.

The average time for processing claims also has shrunk from 41 to 19 days, a major factor in Legal's being recognized in June (along with the ORO EEOICPA staff and contractor teams) with DOE's Exceptional Service Award, one of only four such awards given throughout DOE.



Y-12 volunteers joined with others to build homes for three needy families in Oak Ridge.